

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00263 292205Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 INT-08 SCI-06 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /150 W

----- 125230

P 292000Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2595

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT: GARRISON DIVERSION - GLOBE AND MAIL COVERAGE

REF: NEF-O'CONNOR TELECON JAN 29

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CANADIAN PRESS ARTICLE, DATELINED WASHINGTON, WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OF TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL FOR JANUARY 29, ENTITLED: "CANADIAN PROTESTS HAVE FAILED TO HALT U.S. WATER PROJECT".

BEGIN QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARING TO TELL CANADA THAT IT PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS WORK ON THE CONTROVERSIAL GARRISON IRRIGATION PROJECT IN NORTH DAKOTA, BUT WILL CONSULT OTTAWA ABOUT ANY FUTURE EXPANSION THAT MAY AFFECT RIVERS FLOWING INTO MANITOBA.

THIS DISCLOSURE OF THE U.S. POSITION CAME YESTERDAY FROM A VARIETY OF INFORMANTS IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS. HOWEVER, ALL STRESSED THAT THE OFFICIAL NOTE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT BY THE STATE DEPT IS STILL BEING DRAFTED AND ITS EXACT WORDING HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

CANADA ASKED THE UNITED STATES LAST OCTOBER TO HALT ALL FURTHER WORK ON THE GARRISON PROJECT UNTIL IT IS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00263 292205Z

ASSURED THAT CANADIAN RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED UNDER

THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OF 1909. IT SAID THE \$500-MILLION PROJECT, AS ENVISAGED, WOULD HARM THE QUALITY OF WATER FLOWING INTO THE RED AND SOURIS RIVERS OF MANITOBA.

THE U.S. REPLY TO OTTAWA'S DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO BE DELIVERED WITHIN A WEEK OR SO. THE STATE AND INTERIOR DEPARTMENTS ARE REPORTED TO BE STILL CONSULTING ABOUT MINOR POINTS ON WORDING.

A FURTHER INDICATION THAT CANADA HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING THE PROJECT ALTOGETHER CAME FROM CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES WHO SAID THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET HAS AGREED TO INCLUDE FUNDS FOR GARRISON IN THE 1974-75 FEDERAL BUDGET.

ONE CONGRESSIONAL AIDE, WHO ASKED NOT TO BE NAMED, SAID THE BUDGET OFFICE BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM NORTH DAKOTA'S INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CONTINUE ALLOCATING MONEY FOR THE PROJECT, BUT THE AMOUNT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THE DELEGATION WANTED. THE BUDGET OFFICE HAS BEEN LUKEWARM TO THE GARRISON SCHEME FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE IT DOUBTED THAT THE BENEFITS JUSTIFIED THE COST.

BUT THE PROJECT HAS THE SUPPORT OF SENATOR MILTON YOUNG OF NORTH DAKOTA, SENIOR REPUBLICAN MEMBER ON THE BUDGET-SETTING SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. SENATOR YOUNG IS DETERMINED TO PRESS ON WITH GARRISON DURING A YEAR IN WHICH HE IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION.

NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE ABOUT \$10 MILLION IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR GARRISON.

THAT FIGURE WOULD REPRESENT ABOUT HALF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S ALLOCATION AND ONLY ABOUT A THIRD OF THE AMOUNT CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO KEEP THE PROJECT MOVING AT ITS CURRENT PACE.

THE UNITED STATES, IN ITS REPLY TO OTTAWA'S DEMAND FOR A TEMPORARY HALT TO WORK ON THE GARRISON PROJECT, IS EXPECTED TO CONTEND THAT PORTIONS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF WATER FLOWING INTO CANADA AND THERE IS THEREFORE NO REASON TO STOP THE WORK. THE UNITED STATES IS LIKELY TO OFFER FULL CONSULTATION WITH CANADA BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH PORTIONS OF THE PROJECT THAT MIGHT DAMAGE CANADIAN INTERESTS, INFORMANTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00263 292205Z

SAID.

CANADIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT ALTHOUGH CURRENT WORK DOES NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT CANADA, THE WORK MAKES LITTLE PRACTICAL SENSE UNLESS THE SCHEME IS CARRIED THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

OTTAWA FEARS THAT BY GOING AHEAD, THE UNITED STATES WILL FIND ITSELF TOO HEAVILY COMMITTED TO BACK AWAY FROM COMPETITION OF THE PROJECT.

ABOUT \$65 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON GARRISON, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE IRRIGATION WATER EVENTUALLY FOR 250,000 ACRES OF NORTH DAKOTA THROUGH A SYSTEM OF CANALS, RESERVOIRS AND DRAINS.

IF THE PRO*ECT IS COMPLETED AS PLANNED, MOST OF THE WATER WOULD DRAIN OFF INTO THE SOURIS AND RED RIVERS, RAISING THE MINERAL CONTENT OF THE RIVERS SHARPLY AS THEY FLOW TOWARD MANITOBA. END QUOTE.

2. EXTAFF (LORANGER) CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER SHARP WILL SPEAK ON GARRISON DIVERSION FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, ON CBC RADIO INTERVIEW PROGRAM "THIS COUNTRY IN THE MORNING", AT 9:45 LOCAL TIME.
JOHNSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, IRRIGATION, GARRISON IRRIGATION PROJECT, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA00263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974019/aaaaahot.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEF-O'CONNOR TELECON JAN 29
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <29 APR 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENVIRONMENT: GARRISON DIVERSION - GLOBE AND MAIL COVERAGE
TAGS: SENV, CA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005